

The Brooklyn Paper

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BOXING DAYS

Yards construction takes a month-long holiday

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

Mega-developer Forest City Ratner took this whole winter holiday thing extra-seriously by stopping the installation of modular apartment units at the only Atlantic Yards building currently being built — immediately after the work started.

Two weeks have passed since the developer began the second phase of construction on the modular B2 skyscraper to great fanfare, but only three of the building blocks have been hoisted into the tower's steel frame, despite claims that the operation would be around-the-clock, with eight apartment modules being plunked into place every day, the Ratner critic website Atlantic Yards Report first reported. Other longtime opponents of the project



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Developer Bruce Ratner's company has stopped installing modular apartment buildings at B2 in what Atlantic Yards opponents are painting as a classic public-relations bait-and-switch.

say they told us so. "The delay in delivery and installation of B2 housing modules is just the latest in an unending string of broken Atlantic Yards promises," said Eric McClure, founder of Park Slope Neighbors, pointing out that the developer scrapped its 2016 project deadline years ago and has yet to commit to another one. "Forest City said the project would be built in 10 years, with no intention of actually doing that, and this is more of the same." B2 is supposed to rise to 32 stories at the corner of Dean Street and Flatbush Avenue, but the media event that showcased the installation of the second block on Dec. 12 was never supposed to signal the beginning of a new pe-

See **TOWER** on page 8



Photo by Steven Schinabe

A Saint Nick's Alliance spokesman, dressed as the Grinch, holds the eviction notice he says the Swinging Sixties Center got on the night before Christmas.

SWINGING EVICTEES

Seniors ousted on Xmas Eve

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

They got scrooged. Williamsburg's Swinging Sixties Center got a big dose of bah humbug on Christmas Eve in the form of an eviction notice from its new landlord, according to activists. The paperwork, dated

Dec. 19, gives the hundreds of kids and seniors who use its services until the end of January to clear out and center leaders say the timing of the delivery shows a calculated meanness best encapsulated by Dr. Seuss' famous green grouch.

See **SWINGING** on page 8

Development, baby

Greenpoint activist: Anti-tower lawsuit collapsed after birth of my daughter

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Anti-development activists in Greenpoint missed a crucial deadline to file a lawsuit that could have halted two big waterfront developments in their tracks after one prominent foe of the projects left the fray to tend to his new baby.

Stephen Pierson, the former Council candidate who announced this summer that he would lead the charge to sue to stop Greenpoint Landing and 77 Commercial Street, said the final date passed in mid-November because other activists dropped the ball when he ducked out to take care of his new-



Manjari Sharma

Stephen Pierson already had Nishka, right, when Meha was born in November, which left less time for activism.

born daughter Meha. "At this point, it is not happening," said Pierson, the professional-poker-player-turned-literary-magazine-publisher who lost to incumbent Steve Levin in September's Democratic primary race for the 33rd District Council seat. Pierson was already dad to one daughter when his second entered the world this fall. The lawsuit would have sought to force the city to do a new environmental study for the waterfront area where the Newtown Creek meets the East River and where two developments are slated to rise, bringing a total of 6,200 apartments in 12 towers. The study the developers relied on for their zoning variance bids is eight years old, but the point is probably moot because, in addition to the lawsuit window closing, the Council green-lighted both developments this month. Pierson laments that he left his fellow activists with everything they needed to sue, introducing them to an attorney and outlining the steps, but no one followed through.

See **LAWSUIT** on page 9



Hawke steady

Actor Ethan Hawke and his daughter Maya, left, made a surprise visit to Park Slope's New York Methodist Hospital on Dec. 23. Hawke, 43, owns a home in nearby Boerum Hill and the duo dropped in to spread cheer, singing folk ditties to patients cooped up in the medical center for the holidays. Here they visit with Sonya Clarke. Maya is one of Hawke's two kids with actress Uma Thurman. Hawke and Thurman are divorced but are sometimes spotted around the borough together hanging out with the young ones.

Blotter blackout hits one month

By Nathan Tempey
The Brooklyn Paper

The police department's blotter blackout is a month old and someone at police headquarters finally admitted there has been a drastic change in its media policy following week after week of denials. The police precincts that have provided report-

POLICE BLOTTER



ers access to crime report information for this paper's weekly crime blotter for decades stopped suddenly in early December, citing an order from police headquarters. The public information of-

fice at One Police Plaza repeatedly refused to acknowledge that such an order exists, much less explain why, until a sergeant there shed some light on the situation. "The daily papers got mad because the weekly papers had so much access [to police precincts]," said Sgt. Jessica McRorie. "The big papers always

See **BLOTTER** on page 4

So much left to do!

As Markowitz leaves office, he leaves some dreams for Brooklyn unfulfilled

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

Oh, what Marty could have done with another year. During his tenure, Borough President Markowitz has achieved many of his visions for the Borough of Kings — not least bringing the Nets, Ikea, and a succession of cruise ships to Brooklyn. But the Beep's ambitions for the borough were as big as his personality, so inevitably some dreams must be deferred. Many of the projects he championed

Goodbye Marty 12 YEARS OF MARKOWITZ

have been completed during his term, but others — such as the Loews Kings Theater renovation that got under way this year — will not be finished until Markowitz's successor has taken the throne. "While I am proud of what I have accomplished as Borough President, there

See **MARTY** on page 9

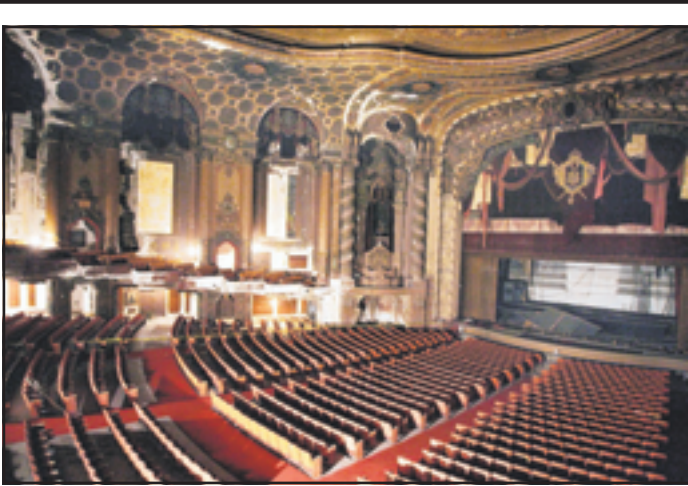


Photo by Brooklyn Borough President/Kathryn Kirk

Borough President Markowitz left office with restoration work on the palatial Loew's Kings Theater in Flatbush, the site of his first date, still ongoing.



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2013

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from page 1

used a candy-coated comeback for the ex-largest sugar maker in the world. Renderings showed a sumptuous sprawl of mixed-use skyscrapers resembling the futuristic skylines of Dubai and Shanghai, including a high-rise sculpted like a giant zero, another one featuring a donut-hole ringed by offices with apartments, a third dotted with terraced dwellings, and pair of svelte structures linked by a bridge that — at 598 feet and 55 stories — could become the borough’s tallest edifice yet.

APRIL

Turf tiff: Drivers saw red when the city wanted to green a traffic-choked area by removing 34 prized parking spots for a bigger recreation space. Tree-huggers embraced the idea of linking two parts of McCarren Park that are currently divided by asphalt, but the auto-set dug in its wheels.

Beastie joy: Deceased Beastie Boys member Adam Yauch, who grew up in Brooklyn Heights and attended Midwood High School, **will live on** at the Palmetto Playground on Willow Place and State Street — renamed the Adam Yauch Playground. The rapper died in 2012 of cancer at the age of 47, just weeks after the Beasties were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

MAY

Turf floors: The Brooklyn Cyclones made the switch from grass to artificial turf at MCU Park. The minor league Mets affiliate claimed synthetic sod at the Coney Island stadium would weather superstorms better and accommodate more off-season events. The team’s hated rivals, the Staten Island Yankees — whose stadium on the Rock was also flooded — are sticking with grass.

Fin-draiser: Brooklyn bohemians were all shook up to hear that the popular **Mermaid Parade** on Surf Avenue could go extinct because of Hurricane Sandy. But a tidal wave of donations poured into a Kickstarter campaign to help ice princesses, crusty pirates, and scantily clad sirens wig out again at the nation’s largest art parade.

JUNE

Strike-out: Maple Lanes is dead wood. Bensonhurst’s beloved bowling kingdom closed its doors permanently to make room for condos, much to the sorrow of diehard kingpins who had patronized the neighborhood fixture for many of its 53 years.

When Maple felt its first strike, John F. Kennedy was president, the Pittsburgh Pirates were the World Series champs, and Elvis Presley topped the charts with “Stuck On You.”

Captain Kidd: The new Brooklyn Nets coach may have zero coaching experience, but he is the only basketball player in National Basketball Association history with 15,000 points, 10,000 assists, and 7,000 rebounds. Retired NBA hoopster Jason Kidd was brought in as the 18th executive of his former team. From 2001 to 2007, Kidd revitalized the then-New Jersey Nets as a player, helping them to reach two NBA finals. So far, though, his on-court experience has failed to translate into managerial success.

JULY

Holy rollers: The Jehovah’s Witnesses unloaded a parcel of prime real estate in Dumbo, including the iconic Watchtower building and several factory-style structures, for the ungodly price of \$375-million. A Manhattan real estate firm snapped up the holdings, which are zoned for business or manufacturing use. The sale dismayed condo developers but thrilled entrepreneurs who envision a Silicon Valley in Brooklyn. The Witnesses, meanwhile, took their headquarters upstate.

Hospital on life support: The state Department of Health approved a plan to shutter Long Island College Hospital and state officials said they would ignore a court order demanding that no moves be taken to reduce service at the hospital. The news prompted staffers and politicians to take to the streets. Ten blocked traffic and got arrested, including Councilman Brad Lander (D–Cobble Hill).

AUGUST

VM-A-zing: The MTV Video Music Awards touched down at the Barclays Center, bringing traffic headaches, police checkpoints, and A-to-Z-list celebrities to Prospect Heights. We covered the pandemonium from all angles on our live-blog, checking in with the likes of Richard Simmons on the red carpet, chatting with the enterprising sidewalk sellers out for the occasion, and keeping an eye on the blow-out’s impact on the surrounding neighborhood. When the crowds cleared and the internet turned its attention to dissecting Miley Cyrus’ spastic stage show, neighborhood bodega Dubai Mini Mart tried to cash in on the frenzy by auctioning a roll of red carpet on eBay. The sale did not get any takers.



(Above) Several weeks after his election as the first Brooklyn mayor since Abe Beame, Bill DeBlasio (with wife Chirlane McCray) announced he was abandoning his Park Slope townhouse in favor of Gracie Mansion. (Right) Sunny Balzano, center, was all smiles as he reopened his iconic Sunny’s Bar in Red Hook nearly a year after Hurricane Sandy.

Sunset Park and former Diana Reyna aide Antonio Reynoso taking his boss’ seat — effectively sticking a fork in disgraced former assemblyman Vito Lopez’s comeback hopes.

OCTOBER

Rot in our backyard: The city rolled out a pilot curb-side compost pick-up in Greenwood Heights and Windsor Terrace, the first in the borough. The sanitation department is eager to get people signed up for the voluntary program, but residents we spoke to said that they were not excited to add another bin to their trash regimen.

GoogaMooga gone: The city booted the controversial music and food festival that wrecked Prospect Park for two years in a row, stating the weekend-long Great GoogaMooga forced the Nethermead to close for costly clean-ups and infuriated park patrons who felt the big-ticket

was full of triumphant returns — and tearful farewells — for businesses swamped by Hurricane Sandy, but few had the oomph of the comeback for beloved Red Hook bar Sunny’s. The reopening came 10 months after the superstorm soaked the saloon and 123 years after the watering hole first cracked its doors. The bar’s beatific owners were turned down for a disaster assistance loan, so they turned to their neighbors for aid. And it poured in. Neighbors raised more than \$100,000 through hoedowns, hootenannies, and a newfangled online fund-raising campaign.

Primary colors: Two Council races saw high drama, with upstart Carlos Menchaca unseating incumbent Sara Gonzalez in

Atlantic Yards goes public: Four-fifths of the stagnated mega-development at the borough’s cross-roads went on the auction block. Developer Forest City Ratner claimed that it will continue to control the project even if it owns less than half of a stake.

Flip of the LICH: A judge tried to turn the tables on the state by issuing a bombshell court order demanding that the State University of New York relinquish control of Long Island College Hospital and calling its handling of the hospital possibly driven by a “sinister purpose to seize [the hospital’s] assets and dismantle” it.

SEPTEMBER

Sunny’s rises: The year



Two Trees unveiled its new plans for the old Domino Sugar factory, deciding to ditch bulkier buildings for taller, skinnier skyscrapers with giant holes in the middle.

event and its rowdy, booze-soaked crowds did not belong in Brooklyn’s backyard.

Ba-chalk Obama: President Obama made a whirlwind visit to the borough — and inadvertently shined the spotlight on Mayor Bloomberg’s controversial school co-location program in the process.

The president kicked off the stop-over with a dramatic entrance, landing by helicopter in Prospect Park, just blocks from where he lived as a twenty-something. A visit to Crown Heights’ Pathways for Technology Early College showcased the school — and the mayor’s policy of shoe-horning schools into existing ones — and the commander-in-chief rounded out the tour with a trip to Junior’s Restaurant to pick up cheesecake with then-mayoral hopeful Bill DeBlasio. The pairing came one week ahead of the citywide election and could not have hurt the progressive favorite DeBlasio’s chances.

NOVEMBER

Brooklyn first: Brooklyn was the clear winner in November’s general election: Bill DeBlasio, the former public advocate and Park Slope councilman, was the first Democrat in 20 years to win the mayor’s race — and at 6-foot-5, became the tallest mayor in living memory! Fort Greene Councilwoman Letitia James, the new public advocate, became the first African-American woman to hold a citywide position, and Borough President-elect Eric Adams and incoming District Attorney Ken Thompson were the first African Americans elected to their respective posts.

Serious signage: Protesters strung fake 20-mile-per-hour speed limit signs along the length of Prospect Park West as part of an effort to demand a slower cap for cars in residential neighborhoods citywide. The parents of a Park Slope boy killed by a van driver joined the push for a lower limit, testifying before the Council and spreading the message that the law would have saved their son.

Rock ‘n roll murder-sui-cide: A musician shot and killed three of his fellow Iranian expat indie rockers before turning the gun on himself at the band’s Williamsburg practice space and apartment. The gunman Ali Akbar Mohammadi Rafie, 29, and victims Ali Eskandarian, 35, and brothers Arash and Soroush Farazmand, 28 and 27, were refugees who fled the Islamic theocracy in 2009 after appearing in a film about its forbidden underground music scene.

DECEMBER

Going Whole hog: Whole Foods snipped the ribbon on its first store in Brooklyn, bringing a rooftop bar and a bevy of green features to a stretch of Gowanus land that was once home to a lumberyard, an auto repair shop, and an oil company. Opening day marked the end of an eight-year saga beset with enough complications to bring on agita — and the beginning of another drama. Just three days after the big opening, the city slapped the grocery giant with a \$3,000 fine for failing to fix up the historic Coignet building, which the store abuts on two sides and promised to repair.

Council loves development: The Council green-lighted a slew of controversial developments ahead of a changing of the guard at City Hall, including outgoing Borough President Markowitz’s Childs building concert venue in Coney Island, the Domino Sugar factory project in Williamsburg, and the Greenpoint Landing tower town planned for the confluence of Newtown Creek and the East River.

Blotter-ed out: The long-standing tradition of station houses providing reporters access to crime reports for weekly police blotters came to an abrupt end at the beginning of December due to pressure from NYPD headquarters. The New York Civil Liberties insists that the information blockade will come to an end with the arrival of a new administration at One Police Plaza in January, but only time will tell.

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BROOKLYN NETS COVERAGE

Lopez injury leaves big void

FRONT COURT
By Tom Lafe

The Nets will not be able to replace their All-Star center Brook Lopez. Not through trades. Not through their existing lineup. Not through any means.

Now that we’ve established the obvious, that the Nets are worse off without Lopez, let’s turn our attention to life without the big man.

Who will fill Lopez’s shoes?

The seemingly obvious answer is Nets’ sixth man, Andray Blatche. Since last season, Blatche has been the steadiest and most effective bench player for the Nets. Now, the former Washington Wizard will be asked to do even more with Lopez out the rest of the season. Blatche will miss at least the next two games at San Antonio and Oklahoma City for personal reasons, but he will see an increase in minutes and be expected to produce more on both ends of the court when he returns.

Blatche will be counted on to deliver more, but it doesn’t look like he will take Lopez’s starting role. That spot will



Deron Williams, right, can no longer stand back and watch center Brook Lopez, center, go after the ball.

likely fall to Mirza Teletovic. The swingman can certainly stretch the floor and knock down the three-ball, but will he be able to clog the lane as Lopez did on defense?

There is also last year’s de facto starter, Reggie Evans. Reggie can defend, rebound, and get under opponents’ skin with the best of them, but on the offensive end of the floor he becomes

somewhat of a liability.

The wild card of the group is Andrei Kirilenko. It appears Kirilenko is close to returning from back spasms, which have sidelined him for nearly the entire season. Kirilenko has the experience as a starter and can contribute at both ends of the floor.

There is not one answer. That is clear. All frontcourt reserves will need to step

their game up if they want any hope of filling the void left by the big center.

It will not replace Lopez, but it might be just enough to win the Atlantic Division.

Tom Lafe is a 6-foot-5 sports-world insider with a middling high school basketball career who believes the Nets will be driven by the success of the team’s big men.

Buck stops at beating Bucks

Do-or-die time for Bklyn’s beleaguered home team

BACK COURT
By Matt Spolar

When a team is losing, there’s always a point at which a lingering question becomes impossible to ignore:

Have the Brooklyn Nets resigned themselves to their fate?

In their first game after losing All-Star center Brook Lopez for the season, the Nets lost 103–86 to the Pacers, arguably the best team in the Eastern Conference. It was not so much the loss itself that was concerning. It was that

the Nets appeared to know this was not a game they were supposed to win.

After the game, Coach Jason Kidd hinted at what fans watching the game had seen.

“It’s getting very close to just accepting losing,” Kidd said. “We’re kind of getting comfortable with losing. We’ve got to make a stand with that because when things get tough, do we just give in?”

For the rest of the season, this will be the question hanging over these Nets. It’s now clear all the money owner Mikhail Prokhorov spent on this roster has not translated into an elite team. Now is when a team’s pride and resiliency must kick in, with

the players digging deep to find a way to be competitive with what they have.

For inspiration, the Nets should look to the Chicago Bulls, which embarrassed Brooklyn on its home floor on Christmas Day. For the second season in a row, the Bulls are having to make do without injured star point guard Derrick Rose. The Bulls are having a rough go of it, but their desire to win was clearly stronger than the Nets’.

Since the Chicago game, the Nets have beat the Milwaukee Bucks, which have the worst record in the NBA, and lost again to the conference-leading Pacers.

“I need to play better,” said point guard Deron Williams

after the Pacers game, the Nets’ third loss in four games since Lopez’s injury. “I need to be more aggressive for us to have a chance, especially with Brook going down.”

That is good to hear, but it needs to be reflected on the court, not just by Williams but the rest of the team’s stars. In the meantime, fans are left to wonder how the Nets will perform against the teams with skill levels between those of the Pacers and the Bucks. Will they lay down and die or stand up and fight?

Matt Spolar is a nearly 6-foot-1 journalist with a middling high school basketball career who is sure the Nets win thanks to team’s top-tier guards.

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Carriage driver charged with animal cruelty

On December 20, the NY Times reported that a carriage driver had been arrested for animal cruelty after a police officer saw the driver working a visibly injured horse. Police Officer Brian Coll noticed the horse struggling under the weight of the carriage, approached the driver and learned of the horse's four-day-old injury.

The carriage trade responded that this is an anomaly and is trying to distance themselves from the driver. But the driver and horse are from Clinton Park Stables, touted by the trade as being their "jewel."

Animal rights advocates say that drivers are inclined to overload their carriages with too many passengers, make illegal u-turns, or ignoring a lame horse when no one is looking. Police officers are typically not familiar with the specific laws and generally look the other way. The ASPCA is giving up humane law enforcement on December 31, but they were rarely active in

Central Park so would not have seen something like this.

Elizabeth Forel, president of the Coalition to Ban Horse-Drawn Carriages, the group that started this hard fought campaign in 2006 and is responsible for getting the first bill to ban horse-drawn carriages introduced in the City Council, has a number of unanswered questions: "Why wasn't the owner of the horse with cruelty as well as the driver? Why didn't stable hands or other drivers report a horse that is limping? And why didn't the customers notice or say anything? We hope Mayor-Elect de Blasio will shut down this trade quickly."

A an easily prevented condition called Thrush was the reported cause of limping. "Thrush is easily prevented by cleaning a horse's hooves daily – before and after his shift – and keeping the stall clean and dry. This is a glaring example of neglect," said Forel.

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Adams: I'll bring Brooklyn a ball drop

The incoming Beep wants to give us a piece of the New Year's action

As Brooklynites said so long to their Borough President of 12 years, we checked in with the his replacement ahead of his swearing-in on New Year's Day. Apparently the timing was right because Eric Adams is pledging to bring Brooklyn its very own ball drop in just fewer than 360 days. Now that is what we call a resolution.

Bill Egbert: How do you plan to ring in the New Year?

Eric Adams: I'm going to be in Prospect Park for the celebration and fireworks display, just as I've done for the past four years. It's great fun.

BE: Are you going to sworn in at the stroke of midnight like the mayor?

EA: No, I plan to take the oath in a small family ceremony, with a close friend who's a justice of the peace doing the honors — probably at my parents' house.

BE: So, what's your New Year's resolution?

EA: To get no sleep! No, seriously, I want to spend

Adams on Line 1

as much time as I can this year getting out into all the neighborhoods and getting to know people. I want to be everywhere and be accessible to everyone.

BE: What's the first thing you're going to do after you're sworn in?

EA: I plan to go on a learning tour of the borough, speaking to as many people as I can, to hear their concerns and let them set my priorities for the year. I want to a lot of places and

met a lot of people during the campaign, and I want to go out and thank the people I met, and introduce myself to the people I didn't.

BE: Marty Markowitz is said to have issued more than 15,000 proclamations during his three terms in Borough Hall. What sort of proclamations are you looking forward to making?

EA: Well, I doubt I'll be able to keep up his pace, but I am looking for ideas. I want to find people who are doing great things all over Brooklyn and give them the recognition they deserve. I'd love to get some nominations from people who see individuals doing good works in their own neighborhoods.

Another thing I'd like to do along these lines is to create a Brooklyn Hall of Fame. Our borough has produced so many amazing people who have given so much to the city, the country and the world. We should have a place to celebrate those contributions.

BE: Any other big plans for the New Year?

EA: Oh yes — by next

New Year's Eve, I want Brooklyn to have its own ball drop!

There's no reason Brooklynites should have to go into Manhattan to see a ball drop. We deserve one of our own. We're not sure where it will be yet. I'd like to see it in Prospect Park with the rest of the celebrations. Or we may need to do it at Borough Hall.

We're still looking into the logistics, but next year Brooklyn should have a New Year's ball drop of our own.

Make way for amphitheater

Coney community garden bulldozed in dead of night

Workers caged the 20 chickens living in the garden, but the dozens of cats, rabbits, and pigeons gardeners were keeping at the parcel appear to have fled ahead of the machines. Gardeners said the backhoes crushed stuff they kept inside the lot, including a bungalow full of tools and seeds Opendik had built by hand.

"It wasn't expensive things, but personal things that meant so much more to me than money," said Opendik.

The People's Playground planters had hoed the plot of along W. 22nd Street since 1997.

The city kicked the growers out in 2004 in order to convert the parcel into a parking lot for MCU Park, then under construction. But the garden was never paved and the dozens of seed-sowers returned without official sanction. Hurricane Sandy soaked the spot and buried it in sand, but the gardeners dug their way out and replanted last spring.

The earth-moving machinery was sent by iStar Financial, which owns the Childs Building. The plan is for the city to pay \$53-million to buy the 90-year-old Boardwalk icon and have the developer renovate the space into a music hall and restaurant, turning the Boardwalk Garden and two parcels along W. 23rd Street into seating and a sprawling, landscaped lawn. The developer will then

Workers erect a fence around the former Boardwalk Community Garden.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

Gardeners had hoped to bury Marty Markowitz's planned Coney Island amphitheater — but instead got plowed under themselves.

Backhoes sent by a developer destroyed the Boardwalk Community Garden in Coney Island in the early-morning darkness on Dec. 28, in order to make way for a permanent home for the outgoing Beep's summer concert series.

The gardeners said they had been on guard against the destruction of their vegetable patch next door to the landmarked Childs Building, which is slated to become a new music venue, since the afternoon of Dec. 26, when they said several men claiming to be construction contractors came and warned they were going to uproot the garden overnight. The planters put up a tent in front of the garden and camped out in shifts. But they found themselves powerless when, at 5 am on Saturday morning, a construction crew arrived with earth-movers and broke the gates.

"I get a call in the middle of the night, and they told me the trucks were here," said Yuri Opendik, who had helped organize the growers. "I got here in time to watch it all unfold. They tore the garden apart."

operate the facility at a profit until 2025, before turning it over to the city.

The gardeners successfully lobbied Community Board 13 to vote down the amphitheater plan in September, but failed to prevent the project from breezing through the City Planning Commission and the Council.

Workers erect a fence around the former Boardwalk Community Garden.

Copper hop on Warren

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill-Red Hook

A bandit ran off with copper pipes and a drill from a construction site on Warren Street on Dec. 25, police said.

The agile crook scaled a wall at the site near Nevins Street around 9 pm and stole a chop saw, circular saw, and tool kit, along with 18 copper pipes and a heavy-duty drill, cops reported.

Xmas surprise

A burglar with no sense of the holiday spirit stole two televisions and a stereo system from a woman's apartment on Bond Street sometime between Dec. 23 and 25, cops said.

The 60-year-old victim told police that she left her apartment near Baltic Street

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

on Dec. 23 at 6 am and, when she returned on Dec. 25 at 2 pm, her 37-inch and Samsung televisions were missing, along with her Sony boombox.

There were no signs of forced entry, cops said.

Bond gone

An amoral auto-ophile stole a woman's car from its Bond Street parking spot sometime between Dec. 24 and 25, police said.

The 55-year-old victim said she left her green Kia Sedona between Degraw and Sackett streets at 5:45 pm on Dec. 24 and returned the next

day at 9 am to find her ride gone. It had not been towed, she said.

MacBook Snare

A sneak thief stole a woman's MacBook after it was delivered to her Kane Street home sometime between Dec. 18 and 19, cops said.

The 52-year-old victim said she discovered the package open, and missing her MacBook Air, in a garbage can next to the pad between Clinton and Court Streets at 6:30 pm on Dec. 19.

No arrests have been made. — Megan Riesz

BLOTTER...

Continued from page 1

wanted a piece of that and they got cranky when they didn't."

In response, top cops cut off all access to the crime reports, according to McRorie. The records are the basis of the weekly police blotter in this paper.

The scenario the sergeant outlines jibes with a report by the news website Gothamist that quotes a community newspaper editor anonymously, saying that the specific source of heartburn at the daily newspapers was the combination of precinct-and-headquarters-level access maintained by news website DNAinfo.

"Sometimes if there's a problem, the simpler solution is to shut everything down," the editor reportedly said.

DNAinfo's managing editor Michael Ventura declined to comment.

Follow-up inquiries to the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Public Information were met with silence, but spokespeople there insisted in weeks past that the key to ending the embargo lies with the precincts, despite the continued barring of beat journalists from all but three of the 13 precincts this paper covers and local

commanding officers deferring to headquarters.

"They want us to refer everything to [the public information office]," said Captain James Ryan of Greenpoint's 94th Precinct again this week.

"We are the most transparent agency. They are just vetting everything. We're not trying to not let you know anything."

A lawman at the front desk of Brooklyn Heights' 84th Precinct concurred.

"Requests have to go through official channels, I guess," said an Officer Degennaro.

The public information office has also refused to respond to repeat requests for

comment on a letter Sheephead Bay's Community Board 15 sent demanding reporters be allowed back into the precincts.

The New York Civil Liberties Union has predicted that the blackout will end with the installation of Bill Bratton as police commissioner this week. One longtime reader said he sure hopes that is the case.

"When Bratton comes in during 2014, an election year, he'll reinstate the reporting of crimes," said Windsor Terrace legend Tom Prendergast. "If not the NYPD logo should be converted to 'NYKGB.'"

— with Megan Riesz, Will Bredderman, and Danielle Furfaro

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By the numbers

Fascinating facts and figures from a year in Brooklyn

By Ruth Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

And so that was 2013. The year Brooklyn hosted both the MTV Video Music Awards and Obama, said goodbye to Marty Markowitz, and saw one of its own elected Mayor of New York. But so much more happened in the borough last year. We have rounded up some lesser-known facts and figures that sum up the past 12 months around town.

- 1 Amount of Brooklyn Lager brewed by Brooklyn Brewery: 3,100,000 gallons
- 2 Bestselling T-shirt at hipster outfitter Brooklyn Industries: "BK Phones" (pictured)
- 3 Number of Kickstarter projects launched in Brooklyn: 790
- 4 Money raised by Brooklyn Kickstarter projects: More than \$12-million
- 5 Biggest-selling book at Fort Greene's Greenlight Bookstore: "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" by Neil Gaiman
- 6 Number of rotations made by Coney Island's Wonder Wheel: 48,000
- 7 Most-rented film from Williamsburg's Videology: "Looper," rented 118 times
- 8 Variations on "The Nutcracker" ballet performed around the borough: 7
- 9 Number of units Brooklyn-based band Vampire Weekend's album "Modern Vampires of the City" sold:



Getting shirt: Brooklynites showed hometown pride by buying up truckloads of these Brooklyn Industry T-shirts in 2013.

- 363,000 nationwide
- 10 Where Rolling Stone ranked "Modern Vampires of the City" on its "50 Best Albums of 2013" list: 1
- 11 Most-rented prop at Gowanus' Film Biz Recycling: A powder-blue coffin
- 12 Number of King Kong-related performances in the borough: 2
- 13 Number of articles in the New York Times' style section about, set in, or heavily featuring Williamsburg: At least 13; notable activities undertaken by residents included eating artisanal popcorn, drawing in bars, and distilling rum
- 14 Number of knockouts and technical knockouts at the Barclays Center's Brooklyn Boxing: 15
- 15 Percentage increase in borough ice-skating rinks: 200
- 16 How long it would have taken to watch every single film at the 2013 Brooklyn Film Festival back-to-back: 1 day, 22 hours, and 52 minutes
- 17 Calories consumed by Joey Chestnut while eating 69 hotdogs to win the 2013 Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest: 20,010
- 18 Most-requested new song at "Kings of Karaoke" nights around the borough: "Wrecking Ball" by Miley Cyrus
- 19 Honorary proclamations made by Marty Markowitz: 1,241
- 20 Most popular video game at Williamsburg's Barcade: "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"

Putting his roots down

'Fiddling poet' holds roots music showcase

By Meredith Deliso
for The Brooklyn Paper

This is one music show where you can really find your roots. On Jan. 9, the Jalopy Theatre in Red Hook is hosting a variety show that starts and ends with Appalachian string-band music and throws in Irish sessions, country, bluegrass, and even some percussive dancing in between. "You can get a whole education in one night," said Ken Waldman, who is also known as "Alaska's Fiddling Poet," and will bring together more than 20 artists for the roots showcase. Though based out of Alaska, Waldman has spent the better part of the past decade on the road. Along the way, he has made friends across the country, many of whom will be in town for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters conference, taking place in Manhattan Jan. 10-14.

MUSIC
"From Red Hook to the Real Alaska: An All-Star Roots Music Variety Show" at the Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz], Jan. 9 at 8 pm. \$10.

For the past five years, Waldman has been putting together variety shows in conjunction with the annual conference, and the Jalopy show marks his second in Brooklyn. Waldman will kick things off with his unique mix of Appalachian string-band music and original poetry. From there, the night will also see sets from the likes of out-of-towners Wild Carrot, a Cin-

cinnati duo that combines bluegrass, country, Celtic, swing, and modern folk; and Brian Vollmer's Old-Time Music Party, an old-time string-band based out of Ithaca. Several Brooklyn locals will also take the stage, including fiddlers Stephanie Coleman and Caitlin Warbelow. Warbelow, a fellow Alaskan who now lives in Greenpoint, is putting together a group specifically for the Jalopy show. The line-up will feature musicians from her album "Manhattan Island Sessions," a compilation of live recordings of traditional Irish music sessions from around the city. "People hear a lot of Irish music these days, but most of the commercial stuff is very different than the actual traditional reels, jigs, and songs," said Warbelow. "The idea behind presenting session-style music is to expose audiences to the experience of hearing 'real' traditional music in a



Fiddling around: Ken Waldman, "Alaska's fiddling poet," is throwing a roots variety show at the Jalopy theatre on Jan. 9.

performance context while still retaining the amazing drive and energy that makes people head out to pubs to hear this style of music." A highlight of the night is sure to be Ken's Class Party, a big jam session that will feature collaborations from all of the musicians on hand that night. "It's an experiment, but they're all great ingredients," said Waldman.

MUSIC

Elvis lives

This is a tribute fit for a king. Elvis Presley would have turned 78 years old on Jan. 8. So to honor the late icon's birthday, new venue Radio Bushwick is hosting the "Elvis Birthday Tribute Extravaganza," with performances from four live bands, plus Elvis-themed dance, costume and trivia contests. Headlining the show will be Brooklyn-based rockabilly band Screamin' Rebel Angels. Frontwoman Laura Rebel Angel has been throwing an

Elvis tribute for the past five years as a way to celebrate the man and his music. "Besides loving Elvis as the amazing performer and icon that he is, I find that these shows are a great way to introduce a larger audience to the current genre of rockabilly that is happening in New York City, and Brooklyn in particular," said Angel. "Early Elvis is the gateway drug of rockabilly, and we're trying to give the audience a taste and hope that they get hooked."

To that end, Screamin' Rebel Angels and the three other bands on the bill — the Bothers, Sean Coleman and the Quasars, and the Raw Dogs — will each be performing a handful of Elvis songs — both classics and more obscure tunes — alongside their own originals. The night's festivities will also give audience members the opportunity to channel the King themselves. SlapBack, a vintage boutique in Williamsburg, will host a costume contest and award prizes for three different Elvis-related personas — "Rockabilly Elvis" (think vintage blazers with skinny ties and pocket squares, or gabardine shirts with neckerchiefs), "Crazy Vegas Elvis" (jumpsuits and sunglasses will do the trick), and "1960s Priscilla Presley" ("We will be looking for the giant hair, heavy eyeliner, and bombshell dresses," said Angel). Additionally, an "Elvis Pelvis Dance-Off" will award those with the best hip-swiveling moves, while the trivia contest will give attendees the chance to prove they know their "Blue Suede Shoes" from their "Moody Blue."

"An Elvis Birthday Tribute Extravaganza" at Radio Bushwick [22 Wyckoff Ave. between Troutman and Starr streets in Bushwick, (917) 893-8935, www.radiobushwick.com], Jan. 8 at 8 pm. \$10. — Meredith Deliso

CINEMA

Chekov's fun

Forget NBC's "The Sound of Music Live." A daring director is taking the same concept as the recent hit TV event — filming and screening a live theater production — but applying it to a much more challenging work: Anton Chekhov's 1878 play "Platonov." Each performance will be screened at the Brooklyn Academy of Music as it is staged, shot, and edited in real-time from a theater in Manhattan on Jan. 9, 16, and 23. "I was really interested in taking some of the cultural capital of the movies — some of our understands of how events are portrayed in movies — and bringing that onstage," said director Jay Scheib, who won an Obie award for his 2012 production "World of Wires," and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2011.

The live event will take eight actors, six designers and technicians, and one single editor to pull off. The team is set to film and edit at the Kitchen, an experimental arts space in Chelsea, with two cameras and a five-second delay — less time than the NBA has to edit during games, Scheib said. But Scheib will not be out of his depth — he has already directed about six other live cinema productions. The ambitious artist said he decided to tackle Chekhov's unfinished "Platonov" — which follows an embittered teacher and a band of anti-heroes who use vodka and sex to cope with the disappointment of life — because it is one of the Russian author's longest and unfinished plays. "I have this passion for the early works of major writers," he said. Scheib, a professor for music and theater arts at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has also produced several contemporary operas and musicals. But despite his lengthy theater resume, Scheib says his true love is the big screen. "I have a huge passion for the cinema," Scheib said. "I grew up with it, like all of us."

"Platonov, or The Disinherited" at BAM Rose Cinemas [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Green, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org], Jan. 9, 16, and 23 at 8 pm. \$7-\$13. — Megan Ries

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A photograph of a Black woman with her hair in braids, wearing a colorful patterned shirt and large hoop earrings. She is holding a professional black video camera with both hands and looking towards it with a smile.

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY

January 3



Dazed and confused

If there's a bustle in your hedgerow, don't be alarmed now — just go check out Zoso, one of the biggest Led Zeppelin tribute bands in the business. The group has been giving a whole lotta love to the classic '70s rock band since 1995, and the songs (and tight pants and big hair-dos) remain the same.

9 pm at Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave., at N. 12th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369, www.brooklynbowl.com]. \$8-\$10.

SATURDAY

January 4

Sonic boom

If your head is not spinning too much zafter New Year's Eve, it will be after this. Connecticut band Magik Markers hits the Union Pool, supported by local acts Degreaser and Lushes. The Sonic Youth-influenced noise-pop outfit is renowned for its manic live shows, full of the band's signature fuzz and feedback.

9 pm at Union Pool (484 Union Ave. between Conselyea Street and Meeker Avenue in Williamsburg, www.union-pool.com). \$10.



SUNDAY

January 5



Maritime music

A new year demands some new music. Brooklyn's premiere floating chamber music performance space, Bargemusic, delivers with its "Here and Now Winter Festival," four days of new works — most of which are being performed for the first time — by the likes of John Zorn, Sandeep Bhagwati, and David Del Tredici.

7 pm at Bargemusic, Fulton Ferry Landing [near the corner of Furman Street and Old Fulton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 624-4924, www.bargemusic.org], \$35

TUESDAY

January 7

Every inch a king

Three-time Tony Award winner Frank Langella received rave reviews for his turn as King Lear with the UK's prestigious Chichester Festival Theatre last year, and now he and the company are bringing their rendition of Shakespeare's tragedy across the Atlantic to Brooklyn.

7:30 pm at Brooklyn Academy of Music, BAM Harvey Theater [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org]. \$25-\$125.



THURSDAY

January 9

Story time

Can Brooklyn ever have too many storytelling events? No. Comedian and storyteller JiJi Lee is launching "Split Personality," a new open mic storytelling night in Williamsburg. Anyone can put their name in a hat for the chance to try out a new routine or character in front of an audience, alongside guest performers.

7 pm at Over the Eight (594 Union Ave. between Richardson and Frost streets in Williamsburg, www.overtheeight.com). Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JAN. 3

ART, "ALBUM TRACKS: Subway Record Covers": Exhibition celebrates album artwork that features the New York City subway and elevated system. \$7 (\$5 children and seniors). 10 am–4 pm. New York Transit Museum [Boerum Place at Schermerhorn Street in Downtown, (718) 694–1600], www.mta.info/mta/museum.
ART, "TWICE MILITANT: Lorraine Hansberry's Letters to 'The Ladder'": New exhibition examining a lesser-known aspect of the life of the award-winning author of the landmark play "A Raisin in the Sun." \$12 (suggested). 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.
ART, "THE FASHION WORLD OF JEAN PAUL GAULTIER: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk": The first international exhibition of the celebrated French couturier's work, including stage costumes worn by Madonna and Beyoncé. \$12 (suggested). 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.
ART, "THE GAMES WE PLAYED": Throwback-themed exhibition featuring urban artists, including Jamie Shabazz. Free. 11 am–7 pm. House of Art Gallery [408 Marcus Garvey Blvd. at Hasley Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (347) 663–8195], www.hoagallery.com.
ART, "ROOTS NO SHOOTS": LoVid's latest project. Free. Noon–6 pm. Smack Mellon [92 Plymouth St. at Washington Street in DUMBO, (718) 834–8761], www.smackmellon.org.
MUSIC, AYANNA LEE: As part of BAMcfe Life. Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. James Place in Clinton Hill, (203) 704–7816], <https://www.facebook.com/events/27167972979305>.
MUSIC, MARY HALVORSON QUINTELL: As part of BAMcfe Life. Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. James Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636–4100], www.bam.org.
ART, TARGET FIRST SATURDAY: Music, entertainment, and fun activities. Free. 5–11 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect

Associated Press / Chris Pizzello

Bias tape: W. Kamau Bell, host of the talk show "Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell," will be the special guest at the live recording of NPR's "Ask Me Another" at the Bell House on Jan. 7.

Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

SUN, JAN. 5

UNDERGROUND THRIFT STORE: Browse a curated collection of upscale and designer clothing and accessories as well as collectibles for the home. A percentage of proceeds benefits organizations that fight human trafficking. Free. 12:30–4:30 pm. Plymouth Church [65 Hicks St. between Orange and Cranberry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (212) 829–4923].
COMEDY, CREAGHEAD & COMPANY: Comedy night. \$7. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MON, JAN. 6

COMEDY, MIKE BIRBIGLIA: Working It Out: The comedian tells some stories, takes requests, and welcomes a guest or two for an informal evening of comedy. \$20. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.
THE MOTH STORYSLAM: Storytelling competition hosted by Peter Aguero. \$8. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhouseyny.com.
COMEDY, JOHN HODGMAN: Daddy Pitchfork: The comedian performs. \$7. 9:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

TUES, JAN. 7

READING, TONYA HURLEY: Author of the young adult novel "Passionaries." RSVP required. Free. 7–9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049], www.powerhouse-arena.com.
MUSIC, ASK ME ANOTHER: Night of trivia, comedy, and music hosted by Ophira Eisenberg. With guest W. Kamau Bell. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 7:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhouseyny.com.
COMEDY, GEEKING OUT: With Simon Rich, Mya Kaplan, Mark Normand, Shannon Coffey, Kerri Doherty, and Leslie Goshko. \$8 (\$5 in advance). 8:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

WED, JAN. 8

READING, CHUCK WENDIG: Author of "The Cormorant." Free. 7 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383–0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.
COMEDY, TELL THE BARTENDER LIVE: A live recording of the podcast hosted by Katharine Heller with Frank Conniff, Blair Koenig, and Matty Blake. \$10. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.
COMEDY, JOHN HODGMAN: Pitchfork, Junior: The comedian performs. \$7. 9:30 pm. Union Hall

FRI, JAN. 10

COMEDY, THE HYSTERODACTYL COMEDY SHOW: Danny DelColle and Dillon Stevenson host a lineup of some of their favorite comedians. Free. 7:30 pm. Red Star Bar [37 Greenpoint Ave. at West Street in Greenpoint, (718) 349–0162], redstarny.com.
MUSIC, THE WHIGGS: \$12. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.
FILM, POINT BREAK LIVE!: Meta-parody of the '90s action blockbuster. \$26–\$41. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhouseyny.com.

SAT, JAN. 11

PERFORMANCE
MUSIC, LEE RINALDO AND THE DUST, STEVE GUNN, SPECTRE FOLK: \$17 (\$15 in advance). 9 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhouseyny.com.
FILM, "RESTREPO": A screening of Tim Hetherington and Sebastian Junger's documentary. \$12 (suggested). 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.


THURS, JAN. 9

READING, RUTH OZEKI: Author of "A Tale for the Time Being." Free. 7–9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049], www.powerhouse-arena.com.
READING, MARIA KONNIKOVA: Author of "Mastermind: How To Think Like Sherlock Holmes." Free. 7 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383–0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.
MUSIC, THESE WILD PLAINS, GHOST THROWER: \$8. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

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Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

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The last laugh

These comedians would not tell us their first joke of 2014 — but they did share the last one they wrote in 2013:

Aparna Nancherla: So I got catcalled recently. I don't get catcalled a lot, but maybe it's winter so people are stepping down their game. I was walking in Union Square, and I just hear this yelled with provocative enthusiasm: "NAMASTE!" And (I'm Indian so) I thought "No way, there's no way that was for me. But I will just look over in that direction to see what's going on." So I look and I see this guy nodding leeringly at me. So I processed that. But then I saw it was like this big white guy with full cornrows in his hair, and I realized "Oh, he just doesn't understand ethnic boundaries. He's like a walking experiment in identity — just throwing things out into the universe and seeing what sticks. A work in progress, if you will. Carry on, sir. I wish you luck on your journey."

Ashley Brooke Roberts: My boyfriend's from New Jersey and he just took me to see Bruce Springsteen. I'm pretty

sure he thinks we're married now.

John F. O'Donnell: Have you ever beat somebody at pool who brought their own stick, and you don't even own your own stick, because you're normal? That feels awesome. Because their internal monologue is, "Okay, I'm going out tonight for the sole purpose of playing and winning at pool. I've invested hundreds of dollars in this stick, which is slightly different from the free sticks that will already be there. And I certainly don't plan on losing, especially to somebody who didn't bring their own stick, because I equate way too much of my self-worth with whether or not I win at pool." And then your internal monologue is, "Oh look, a pool table. Maybe I'll play pool." And the best part is that after you beat them, they have to do that unwind of shame with their stick and then put the two sad little pieces into their sad little flute case and walk out.

First funnies of the year

Comedians share their first new joke for 2014

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

Any other time of the year, you would need a lot of money, a lot of caffeine, and probably a time machine to see 50 comedians in one night. But not in early January.

That is when comedians John F. O'Donnell and Sachi Ezura host an annual tradition for New York's comedy scene — a performance of the first joke more than 50 comedians have written for the year, all told within the span of two hours.

"The first year of it, it was like, 'Oh, this can be a fun celebration of the comedy scene here,'" O'Donnell said of the show, which has now been going for eight years. "We didn't know that it was going to keep going and take off and be such a popular thing."

The line-up of this year's show, which will be held at the Bell House on Jan. 3, includes both wild successes and hidden gems in the



Joke book: John F. O'Donnell will assemble 50 fellow comedians to tell their first joke of 2014.

COMEDY

"The 8th Annual 50 First Jokes" at the Bell House [149 Seventh St., between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebell-house.com]. Jan. 3 at 8 pm. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door.

comedy world — look out for Aparna Nancherla, Ben Kronberg, Jermaine Fowler, Lukas Kaiser, and more. All

of them have two minutes to tell the first joke they wrote in 2014, surrounded by fans and 49 of their peers. With that many comedians in one place, the atmosphere is joyous.

"It is all of your friends. It's everyone that you like and think of funny," said Ashley Brooke Roberts, who is performing at the show for the second year on a row. "It feels like a little bit of a reunion, it feels a little bit like a party. It gets a great crowd."

Not to mention that the audience gets a lot of bang for its buck.

"Most shows, it's like five comedians," Roberts noted.

With several weeks of frustrating holidays behind them, these comedians have plenty of fodder. But the comedians said most punchlines do not revolve around drunk uncles and crappy gifts — the jokes are typically incredibly diverse.

"With 50 comedians, there is a big wide range of styles," said Emmy Blotnick, who, like Roberts, is back at the show for a second year.

"I'm sure there are some kind of topics that are overlapped but it never feels like there's too much of the same topic," O'Donnell said. "It's gonna cover the broad base of things that stand-up comics cover."



Carpool lane: Alejandro Cartagena took photos of carpoolers in Monterrey, Mexico, by dangling off the side of bridges with his camera.

Keep on truckin'

Art show captures Mexican carpoolers

By Samantha Lim
The Brooklyn Paper

This photography show will make you think twice before complaining about New York rush hour.

"The Car Poolers," currently on display at United Photo Industries in Dumbo, features photos of commuters headed to work while lying on hard wooden planks in open-air trucks. Dominican-born photographer Alejandro Cartagena spent a year capturing the images on the southbound Highway 85 in Monterrey, Mexico, where he now resides.

Taken from a high-angle, the photos give viewers the unique sensation of hovering above vehicles speeding down a highway. And in a way, they are — the audacious artist achieved this effect by dangling from an overhead bridge.

ART

"The Car Poolers" at United Photo Industries HQ [111 Front St. Suite 204 between Washington and Adams streets in Dumbo, (718) 215-9075, www.unitedphotoindustries.com] On view through Jan 31.

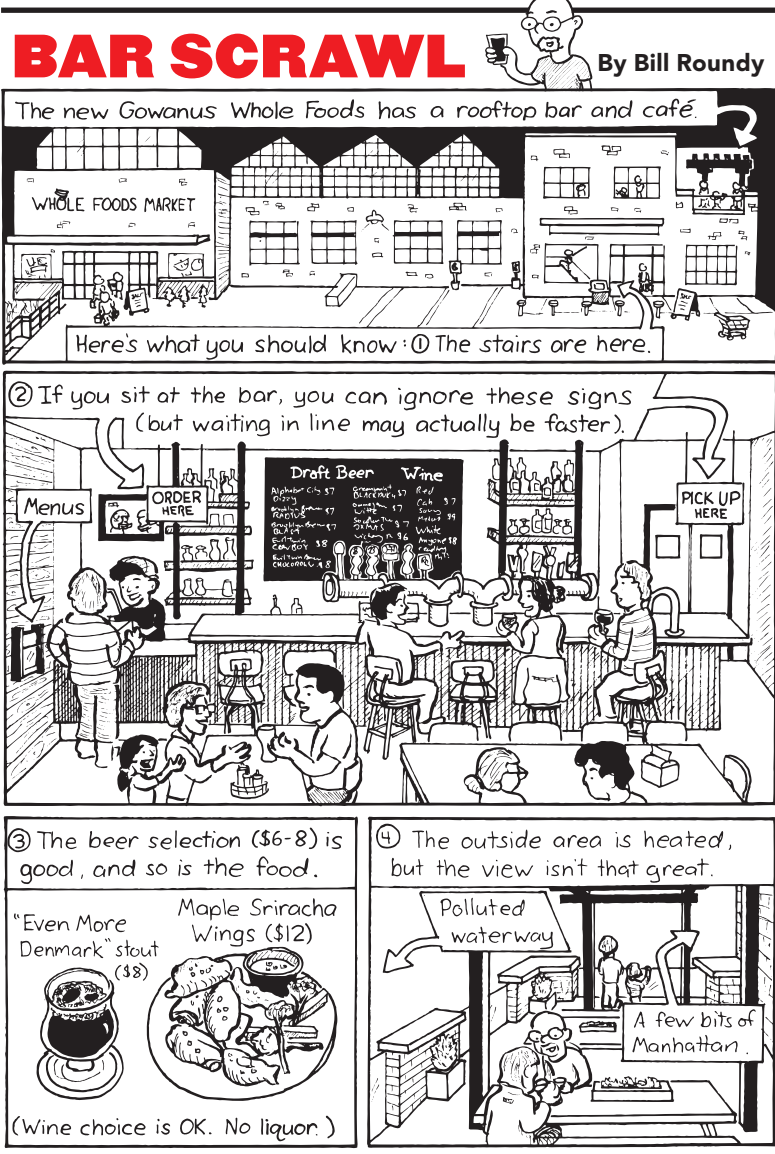
"I found a pedestrian bridge crossing the busiest highways in the metro area and stuck half of my body out to be able to shoot straight down," he said.

Cartagena was invited to present the solo exhibition at United Photo Industries after winning the jury award in the gallery's annual photography contest. But if his photos already look familiar to you, it may be because "The Car Poolers" received a significant amount of media attention when it opened at a Los Angeles

gallery in early 2013, garnering write-ups from the likes of the New York Times, ABC News, and the Guardian, among many others.

Although the photos are from Mexico, the striking images address an issue that should resonate with many Americans — urban sprawl. In Monterrey, Cartagena explained, suburbs are being built at great distances from urban centers, causing longer commutes and higher fuel consumption.

"It is a very local issue but something we inherited from the American dream of suburban home ownership," he said. "The cities and country didn't pay attention to the problems that suburbanization would introduce and now everybody is paying for it. Monterrey's metropolitan area is one of the most polluted and has one of the highest car crash rates in Mexico."



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Blues travelers

Bessie Smith play at Interfaith hospital

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

These hospital activist-actors have got the blues and they cannot be satisfied, so they are combining their passions by staging a play about late blues legend Bessie Smith inside a beleaguered Bedford-Stuyvesant hospital.

The New Brooklyn Theater is putting on Edward Albee’s play “The Death of Bessie Smith” at Interfaith Medical Center, which has been in the process of closing for nearly a year but just got a few-month lease on life thanks to a cash infusion from the state. The faltering healthcare facility is the perfect venue for dramatizing the plight of the hospital and the mostly uninsured people of color who make up the bulk of its patient base, say the play’s organizers.

“If Interfaith were to close, that would be, in public health terms, a racist and classist



Associated Press

The death of blues singer Bessie Smith is the basis of the play that will be performed at Interfaith Medical Center starting Jan. 9.

outcome,” said Jeff Strabone, a board member of the Cobble Hill Association and the theater troupe board’s chairman.

The play, written and set in 1959, tells the story of the blues singer Bessie Smith be-

ing severely injured in a car crash and dying after being refused admission to an all-white hospital. The story was widely believed for decades and, though Smith did die as a result of an auto wreck, scholars have proved the racist element of the story apocryphal.

Strabone has gone to great lengths as an activist opposing the closure of Interfaith and Cobble Hill’s Long Island College Hospital, including getting arrested alongside mayor-elect DeBlasio at a demonstration. So it comes as no surprise that he went the extra mile to contact Albee, the elderly playwright of “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf” fame, to get permission to stage the Smith play.

The show has not been performed in New York since 1967, but when Albee heard about the possible closure of Interfaith, he agreed immediately, with the stipulation that the actors volunteer their

time and the company make admission free. The result will be a lively community forum on the normally wonky topic of hospital management and funding, the activists hope.

“This is not just for entertainment, but it’s a vehicle for discussion,” said Claudette Brady, who is on the board of the theater company and is organizing post-play panel discussions.

Strabone was worried about what would happen to the production if the hospital closed in January, but now that the hospital has won a temporary reprieve from the state, the show is back on track.

The few-month service extension is not enough to satisfy him, though.

“We have a saying in the theater that the show must go on,” said Strabone. “But society doesn’t feel the same way about hospitals and health care, and that has to change.”

“The Death of Bessie Smith” at Interfaith Medical Center (1545 Atlantic Avenue at Albany Ave. in Bedford-Stuyvesant, www.newbrooklyntheater.com). Jan. 9–12 and Jan. 16–19, 7:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays. Free.

SWINGING...

Continued from page 1

“He knew what he was doing when he served these papers on Christmas Eve,” said Community Board 1 member Jan Peterson of building owner Victor Einhorn. “He’s a grinch.”

Peterson spent the late 1960s and early 1970s working to open the center, finally succeeding in 1974, and is also a member of its board.

Einhorn purchased the three-story Ainslie Street building last month with his son Harry and, three weeks ago, raised the rent by a third, prompting supporters of all ages to rally to save the place.

Peterson is convinced that the Einhorns plan to demolish the community center and build condos.

“They are trying to tear down a place that is an institution,” she said.

Current zoning allows for a six or seven-story residential building to go up on the lot.

Center supporters say there is no way the Einhorns will be able to get the daycare, after-school, and senior oper-

ations out so quickly, given that the programs have received city funding for decades.

“There’s absolutely no chance that they will kick these seniors and toddlers out in 30 days,” said Saint Nick’s Alliance spokesman Greg Hanlon. “We are confident they will be there for years to come.”

A lawyer for the center

said there is a lot working against the landlords, including their consciences.

“We believe that the city’s investment in the property, as well as its agreements with the prior owner, not to mention moral mandates, obligate the new owners to maintain this property as the home of the day care and senior centers that have occupied it for some 40 years,” said Marty Needelman, a lawyer working on behalf of the Conseyea Street Block Association, which runs the center.

The hub has been without a lease for more than a year. Peterson said she plans to continue getting city politicians on board to fight for it and to organize those who use its services to launch letter and phone campaigns.

The building hosted Community Board 1’s meetings until mid-December, when the panel decided to cut and run ahead of the feared eviction.

The Einhorns and their attorney did not return calls for comment.

TOWER...

Continued from page 1

riod of construction, claimed Ratner spokesman Michael Rapfogel on Thursday, saying that the plan was always to start slotting the apartment pieces in mid-January. But Rapfogel’s explanation flies in the face of what his colleague, head of construction Robert Sanna, told us at the inaugural block drop-in.

“We’ll be erecting the mods now through the summer, when we’ll go into the period of on-site work,” Sanna said back then.

Another Atlantic Yards foe says he is worried about the noise of constant truck traffic when the units finally do start arriving.

“Forest City Ratner Company has made a huge gamble on modular without ever bothering to consider how it might impact their project’s neighbors, who now may end up bearing the brunt of its omission,” said Gib Veconi, member of the activist group BrooklynSpeaks, which sued Forest City in 2009.

The developer has stressed

that the prefabricated building method requires fewer deliveries than conventional construction.

B2 is supposed to boast 363 apartments, half of them renting for below-market-rate, and is the first of 15 planned towers in the development. The Chinese-government-owned developer Greenland finalized an agreement to buy a 70-percent stake in Atlantic Yards – not including the Barclays Center or B2 – for about \$200-million in mid-December. The companies expect to seal the deal in 2014, but need the sign-off of the federal Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

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###FASTTRACK



TAKE A NUMBER

D'town's DMV building getting demo'd

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

Apartment's coming to Downtown's office complex — technically, anyway. The seven-story building at 10 MetroTech Center — which is actually located on Fulton Street, a 10-minute walk from its namesake office tower compound — is undergoing a \$8.2-million demolition to

make way for a residential development, mega-developer Forest City Ratner said in a quarterly shareholders conference call.

“We are currently demol-



Ten Metrotech Center is in the slow process of being demolished.

ishing the building and will then evaluate our options,” said company spokesman Michael Rapfogel, when asked about the future of the space.

The Ratner-owned building previously housed a double-whammy of bureaucratic dread in the form of offices for the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Motor Vehicles. The tear-down started on Nov. 29 and workers have cleared out much of the building's

interior. The structure's skeleton still stands at 625 Fulton St. near Flatbush Avenue and contractors are now ripping out plumbing and partitions, according to Department of Buildings records.

Under the lot's current zoning, it could become an office tower, an apartment high-rise with ground-floor retail, or a hotel, and a real estate expert says the latter two are the more lucrative options.

“The best and highest use

for the space is a hotel, or residential and retail if permitted,” said Chris Havens, a commercial broker with apt-sandlofts.com.

Forest City is currently in default on a \$40-million mortgage for the building, but it is not in immediate danger of foreclosure. It has two years to pay back the lender, which it might do with the cash it brings in from redeveloping the lot.

When the complex goes

non-commercial, it will be the latest in a long line of Downtown facilities to make the switch from office space to retail or luxury residential digs, including the Municipal Building, the bottom two floors of which are now being leased to stores, and the former Board of Education building at 110 Livingston St., which is now apartments with a performing arts space downstairs.

MARTY...

Continued from page 1

are several projects that I will not get to see completed under my tenure,” said Markowitz. “I will be the Borough President Emeritus when this ‘wonder theater’ reopens its doors for the first time in this millennia.”

His vision for a Coney Island amphitheater in the Childs building is also on its way with the near-unanimous blessing of the Council in its last vote of the year. The initiative made its first concrete progress early on the morning of Dec. 28, when backhoes cleared out a community garden in the venue's footprint.

Other pet projects remain on the drawing board, but Markowitz is optimistic that he will one day see their completion. But for all his tireless cheerleading, Markowitz will admit that even his best efforts could not always yield the results.

“There are several projects that were simply beyond my control,” he said.

Markowitz has long dreamed of returning Brooklyn to its industrial roots, and hoped to lure high-tech electronic manufacturers to the working-class neighborhoods of Brownsville and East New York. But alas, that task will be left to his successors.

“We cannot give up on bringing manufacturing back,” said Markowitz. “Our communities want to work, and we must provide them with good-paying jobs. I am disappointed that I was unable to accomplish this, but I have high hopes that the next administration will.”

Markowitz's other dreams include a casino in Coney Island and bringing the world's sport — professional soccer — to the borough that is a crossroads of the world.

“What better place than Brooklyn for a soccer stadium and a team to call it home?” Markowitz said.

Ultimately, the outgoing Beep is certain that no matter what he has achieved, Brooklyn is the greatest city in the world, and if its citizens were smart enough to elect him three times in a row, he says, they are smart enough to achieve anything.

“We have the greatest dreamers anywhere, and I'm sure there is plenty of excitement to come,” he said.

LAWSUIT...

Continued from page 1

“I left the ball in their court,” he said.

The problem was not lack of interest, it was lack of funds, say Pierson's comrades.

“It came down to money,” said activist Colin Miles, who is also a founder of the anti-Domino Sugar factory development group Save Domino. “It cost a lot of money to hire a lawyer and we did not have it.”

Pierson said the fact that he lost the Council race and that he lives in Brooklyn Heights, not Greenpoint, also played into the decision to hand off responsibility.

“It's still an issue I care about,” said Pierson. “But it did not seem prudent for me to be the face of this.”

Miles said his anti-development cohort in Greenpoint will continue brainstorming ways to turn back the waterfront tower town.

“We have got to do something,” he said.

The Brooklyn Paper

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PARENT

Ten things I want to work on

The list of things I want to work on as a parent in 2014 is long, but I'll fess up to 10 of them. I'll even make copies for my kids or give them the URL to offer up to their future therapists to show at least I was aware of my potentially damaging behavior. Do good intentions count?



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

1. **Curtailed yelling and storming off.** I am fully aware that raising one's voice to hysterical levels and threatening some nonsensical action, like not joining the children on vacation or never making another meal, is not useful or productive. Even though it gives me a moment to breathe, it is probably not the best lesson in communication.

2. **Listen better.** Even though I make a point of being physically present so much of the time, my mind is often elsewhere. That is unlikely to change completely, but given the number of tasks I juggle, I want to do far better at offering my boys my full attention, at least for specific periods. I am trying to institute a policy where people secure my attention before speaking, even if we're right next to each other, because I am sometimes deep in thought and end up not realizing some small person is addressing me until he is halfway through the sentence. Repeating oneself is never fun.

3. **Have more fun with my kids.** I score points as towel-and-robe-giver, clothes washer and short-order chef, “but fun” is not necessarily an adjective used to describe

me nearly enough. I resolve to find games and activities that I can engage in with the boys that actually do float my boat and let me show them moms don't have to be boring.

4. **Slow down.** I call it my drive-by life. Sometimes it seems we're always just rushing from place to place, with so little time to be there, wherever there happens to be. I love to be active, and Oscar's gift to me of a daily calendar

“For Women Who Do Too Much” tells me my Supermarket Sweep way of living has been duly noted, and something's gotta give.

5. **Ask calmly for what I want.** I have noted lately that fear of disappointment often prevents me from asking my kids to do things with me or for me directly. Instead, I will express bitterness after I've walked the dog alone, or folded their laundry. I'd love

to say sayonara to being so passive-aggressive.

6. **Get over not getting what I want.** I realize that the only way to achieve No. 5, and actually learn to be direct about what I want, is to understand that sometimes when I want something, people can't or won't give it. Accepting a change to my vision without pouting is crucial to maintaining family harmony and inner calm.

7. **Laugh more.** 'Nuff said.

8. **Count to three before reacting.** Stopping before saying or doing something thoughtless is, well, thoughtless. Counting slowly to three can save a lot of backtracking later.

9. **Check devices less.** Being where I am, with whom I'm with, means e-mail, text messages, and Facebook will get far less attention.

10. **Remember how fast time flies.** I can't believe my boys are 10 and 12 when a minute ago they were babies. Silly frustrations will

likely fall away in my memory when they leave home in no time.

The important thing is to make these changes slowly, fearlessly, not to add stress while trying to reduce it.

Happy joyous New Year! Best of luck with your own lists.

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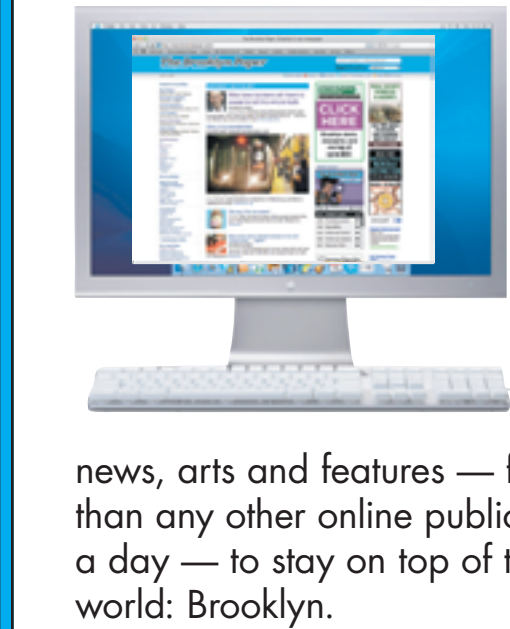
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NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/07/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001257-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Kiara-Olivia (Middle) Mikelle (Last) Foy. My present name is (First) Kiara (Middle) Mikelle Olivia (Last) Foy AKA Kiara Mikelle Foy (infant). My present address is 620 East 29th St Brooklyn, NY 11210. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is August 31, 2013.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 12/30/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001441-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Timothy (Last) Shi. My present name is (First) Dimoxi (Last) Shi AKA Timothy Shi AKA Di M Shi (infant). My present address is 177 Sands Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. My place of birth is China. My date of birth is December 25, 1999.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 12/26/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001426-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Wilfred (Last) Vasquez. My present name is (First) Wilfredo (Last) Vasquez AKA Wilfred Vasquez. My present address is 440 78 Street, Brooklyn NY 11209-. My place of birth is Manhattan, NY. My date of birth is March 12, 1949.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 12/23/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001417-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Deborah (Middle) Velick (Last) Simon. My present name is (First) Dora (Middle) Velick (Last) Simon AKA Deborah Ann Simon FKA Deborah Ann Velick. My present address is 10 Plaza Street, Brooklyn, NY 11238. My place of birth is Detroit, Michigan. My date of birth is July 08, 1961.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/15/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001282-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Christina (Middle) Maria (Last) Sanchez. My present name is (First) Christina (Middle) M. (Last) Polanco AKA Cristina Maria Sanchez AKA Christina M Sanchez. My present address is 71-24 66th Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385-. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is May 03, 1984.

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